

REMARKS

Applicants submit this response to the Office Action dated June 10, 2004. Claims 4, and 42-46 were examined in the Office Action. Claim 42 has been amended and claims 5, 6, 16-41, and 43-48 are cancelled, and no new matter is added.

The Examiner rejected claims 42-46 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Without acquiescing to the ground of rejection, applicants have amended claim 42 and cancelled claims 43-46. Applicants submit the claim 42 is not subject to the present ground of rejection, withdrawal of which is respectfully requested.

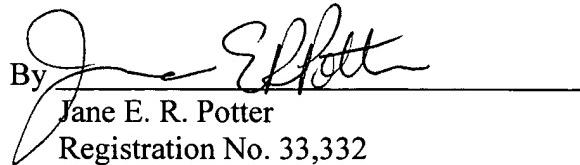
Claims 42-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, because the specification allegedly is not enabling for a variant or epitope-bearing protein of SEQ ID NO:2. Without acquiescing to the ground of rejection, applicants request that the Examiner enter the amendment to claim 42, to reflect subject matter that the Examiner indicated is enabled. Claims 43-46 are cancelled without disclaimer or prejudice to pursuing this subject matter in a subsequent application.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 4 is allowed. If the Examiner does not find that claim 42 as amended is also allowable, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned representative to discuss an Examiner's Amendment to put the claim in allowable condition, prior to issuing an Advisory Action.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

If questions remain regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (206) 628-7650.

Respectfully submitted,
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